

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An assist handle assembly for use on an articulating bed, the assembly comprising:

an assist handle;

a handle mount that is adapted to be supported by the bed for supporting the assist handle for movement relative to the bed; and

one or more latch configurations for latching the assist handle in one or more fixed positions relative to the bed.

2. The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the assist handle has a first member and a second member that orbits about the first member when the assist handle is moved relative to the handle mount.

3. The assembly according to claim 2, wherein the assist handle is an inverted U-shaped tubular structure and the first and second members are defined by legs of the U-shaped structure.

4. The assembly according to claim 3, further comprising one or more cross members extending between the first and second members.

5. The assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a grip applied to the assist handle.

6. The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the handle mount includes a bracket, the handle mount adapted to be supported by the bed by the bracket.

7. The assembly according to claim 6, wherein the handle mount includes a plate having a hole therein and a generally cylindrical sleeve is supported relative to the plate with a passage therethrough that aligns with the hole.

8. The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the hole has an irregular shape and the assist handle has a member that mates with the hole.

9. The assembly according to claim 8, wherein the hole is defined by at least one flat side and a curved side.

10. The assembly according to claim 8, wherein the hole is defined by two opposing flat sides and two opposing curved sides.

11. The assembly according to claim 10, wherein the mating member of the assist handle has flat surfaces and curved surfaces that correspond to the flat sides and the curved sides defining the hole in the plate.

12. The assembly according to claim 11, wherein the assist handle further has a flange that is disposed above the mating member and a partial annular groove defined between the curved surfaces and the flange, the annular groove being sized to receive the flat sides defining the hole in the plate upon inserting the mating member in the hole and rotating the assist handle to trap the mating member in the annular groove.

13. The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the latch configuration includes a receiver for receiving a member of the assist handle and a hole and the assist handle has a member that supports a locking pin that is releasably engageable with the hole to hold the member in the receiver.

14. The assembly according to claim 13, wherein the latch configuration further comprises a cam surface which the pin engages as the assist handle enters the receiver to urge the pin in a first direction until the assist handle completely enters the receiver, at which point the pin plunges into the hole.

15. The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the pin has a ball end to encourage a smooth engagement between the pin and the cam surface.

16. The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the pin is urged in a second direction opposite the first direction by a spring to urge the pin into the hole.

17. The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the handle mount is secured to a mounting channel and the one or more latch configurations includes a latch configuration disposed on the channel at opposing sides of the mount, the assist handle being adapted to pivot in a first direction to engage a first one of the latch configurations in a first position and about 180-degrees in a second direction to engage a second one of the latch configurations in a second position.

18. The assembly according to claim 17, wherein the channel is structured to be mounted to the bed.